

KIRKHAM

URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.



ANNUAL REPORT

ON THE

SANITARY CONDITION

OF THE

KIRKHAM URBAN DISTRICT,

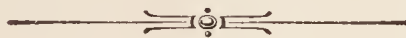
FOR THE YEAR 1909,

BY

BENJAMIN E. JONES,

L.R.C.P., Edin., &c.,

Medical Officer of Health to the Kirkham Urban Sanitary
Authority.



KIRKHAM:

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KIRKHAM URBAN SANITARY DISTRICT.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH,

FOR THE YEAR 1909.

*To the Chairman and Members of the Kirkham
Urban District Council.*

GENTLEMEN,

I have pleasure in presenting my FOURTH ANNUAL REPORT on the Health, Sanitation and Vital Statistics of the Kirkham Urban District.

The nett deaths at all ages belonging to the district were, for the year, 64, giving a death-rate of 16 ; this, as compared with last year, is a distinct improvement, seeing that the rate was 18. It is also an improvement on the average for the last ten years, which is 17. The number of deaths actually occurring in the district was 57, giving a rate of 14 ; of the remainder, 6 occurred in the Union Workhouse at Wesham and 1 at the Moss Side Hospital.

Looking at the actual causes of death amongst adults, we find that diseases of the respiratory organs are in a large proportion,

which, considering the climatic conditions that have prevailed, is not to be wondered at. When we come to consider diseases that are infectious, or “catching,” but not notifiable, have to report that for a time such prevailed to an extent that made it a question as to whether the National Schools should be closed or not. The schools were *not* closed in this instance, and I quite believe that the epidemic *died away* far more quickly than it would have done had the children (mostly infants) been allowed to run about and mix together in the yards and streets of the town, as they can and will do, when either just commencing or just convalescent. At school a certain amount of restraint is evinced, viz, they are *clean, warm*, not allowed (in school) to be too near each other, and there is proper ventilation, which cannot be said when running wild in the streets or cooped up (as unfortunately many must be) in some small room. Am now only noting the action taken in the case of non-notifiable complaints, but believe that authorities are somewhat inclined to the view that to close (at any rate a part of) a school without taking other and, might say, stringent measures to *prevent infection*, is, to say the least of it, a futile proceeding. The complaints prevalent were *Influenza “colds”* or *Catarrhs, Mumps* and *Sore Throats* or *Tonsillitis*, with allied complications.

With regard to the notifiable infectious cases, had not any trouble at the schools in any way, which, should say, goes far to show that these so called minor infectious cases should be treated a little more seriously and watched, as mentioned in last year’s Report, from the *commencement* of either the individual case or outbreak in any particular quarter. A county Medical Officer now inspects the children periodically, and any closure of schools, &c., should be done in conjunction with him ; so closure of schools is not now entirely in the hands of the local authorities.

The number of infectious diseases notified during the year is greater than last, viz., 28, but there has not been any approach to an epidemic, and that the cases must have been of a mild nature is shown by the fact that the death-rate from Zymotic diseases is, this year, less than last, viz., 0·77 for 1908 and 0·76 for 1909.

There has not been any necessity to take advantage of the facilities for the examination of water, milk, food stuffs, &c., which the Council have as a registered member of the "Clinical Research Association," not any complaints having been received in any shape in this direction. There have not been any complaints made with regard to food stuffs either to myself or your Sanitary Inspectors. There has only been one death from any kind of Tuberculous disease under the heading of Infantile Mortality (under one year), which, as mentioned in last year's Report, shows fairly conclusively that the milk supplied in the district is not tuberculous. At the same time will again remark that it is as well to have a free hand in this matter should occasion arise, not on account of Tuberculosis only, but Scarlet Fever and Enteric Fever also. To be able to send off *at once* any sample of material and have it bacteriologically, chemically and microscopically examined, at the shortest notice, is a matter of the greatest importance.

The general health of the town, we may say, has improved, seeing that the death-rate is but 16, as compared with 18 of last year, and also that the average death-rate for the last 10 years is 17. This should be considered satisfactory, seeing that this year, as last, have been troubled with the minor epidemics of Influenza, Whooping Cough, Mumps, &c., in addition to most of the reportable infectious diseases.

The National Schools are much improved.

The birth-rate of 24·3 per 1.000 again cannot be described as satisfactory, although a little above that of 23 for the year before. The average for the past 10 years being 27, shows that this rate is steadily declining. In this respect, however, the township is again not much different to places with a similar class of inhabitants.

"SPOTTED FEVER" or *Epidemic Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis*.—None have occurred in or near the district to my knowledge.

SMALL-POX.—Not any been reported since 1903.

DIPHTHERIA.—There have been four cases during the year; all were removed to Moss Side Hospital, and there were not any deaths. There were seven cases last year.

ERYSIPELAS.—There have been three cases, and all treated at home. Not any deaths.

SCARLET FEVER.—The district this year, as compared with last, has rather suffered, 11 cases having been reported, as against none last year; of these, 10 were treated at the Infectious Hospital and one at home. Not any deaths.

TYPHUS FEVER.—Not any cases, and have not been for more than 10 years past; this is now a rare disease under improved hygienic surroundings.

ENTERIC FEVER.—Ten cases reported, of these seven were removed to Hospital, where one case died, and of the cases treated at home two deaths were recorded.

PUERPERAL FEVER.—Not any cases.

Table showing Diseases Notified during past 10 years.

	1900	1901	1902	1903	1904	1905	1906	1907	1908	1909	Total
Small-pox .....	..	..	1	1	..	..	..	.	..	..	2
Scarlet Fever ..	1	1	56	1	3	43	33	6	..	11	155
Diphtheria	1	..	2	1	..	2	4	7	7	4	28
Typhus Fever ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Relapsing Fever.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Cholera	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Membranous Croup .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Typhoid Fever..	3	1	1	1	1	6	5	1	5	10	34
Continued Fever	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Erysipelas.....	1	..	..	1	4	1	4	1	1	3	16
Puerperal Fever.	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	3
	7	3	61	5	8	52	46	16	13	28	239

KIRKHAM, acreage 857, is both hilly and sandy, affording good facilities for drainage, and an abundant supply of fresh air, which is nature's finest disinfectant.

POPULATION at the last census was 3,693, and the estimated population for 1909 is 3,942.

WATER, as supplied by the Fylde Water Board, cannot be excelled in Great Britain. The supply is ample, and the quality good.

MILK.—May safely repeat the remarks of last year with regard to the milk supply of the district being of most excellent

quality, neither your Sanitary Inspectors or myself having received any complaints as to its quality. The Tuberculosis returns show that the cows must be healthy, and though the Zymotic diseases are somewhat higher, it has never been suggested that any of the cases were due to the milk supply, all having been isolated cases. Considering that this Authority has such limited power over the cow-sheds, it is very satisfactory to be able to report that neither your Inspectors nor myself have any cause to complain of the manner in which the shippens are kept ; they have always, on inspection, been found in very good condition, and clean in every way. Although this is so in the case of this district, it would probably be better if there was a uniformity of regulations for cow-sheds all over the country.

FOOD.—There have not been any complaints, nor has any been condemned.

SEWAGE.—The system satisfactory. Runs to settling tanks at Freckleton in conjunction with that from Wesham, and then into the River Ribble.

SCAVENGING is satisfactorily carried out under the supervision of your Inspector.

NIGHTSOIL.—Now that your Inspector has immediate command of the men and horses engaged in the removal of nightsoil, &c., there is no doubt matters have a great deal improved, but the fact that “tipping” is still the method of disposal is rather to be deplored, especially as the material has to be “tipped” wherever owners of land or tenants will allow or require it. An attempt was made this year to provide a permanent “tip” for the town, but owing, I believe, to the opposition of surrounding landowners, residents, &c., the scheme did not develop. It is plainly to be seen that in whatever quarter the township proposes to provide a “tip” the adjacent owners, tenants or residents, &c., will raise the same objections. Hence, most decidedly the sooner the Council can see its way to provide a “destructor” the better. Your Inspector and myself have seen the greater number of the backyards, ashpits, closets, &c., attached to the poorer class of cottages in the town,

and at the present time the condition of the backyards is improved ; the ashpits, &c., receive more attention, and, on the whole, the back premises of the cottages generally are improved as compared with last year, this improvement, no doubt, being due to the Authority having its own horses, carts and men, under the direct supervision of the Sanitary Inspector.

SLAUGHTER-HOUSES, three in number, have been regularly visited and found satisfactory. They are kept well limewashed and are well supplied with water, so that they are constantly cleansed. All refuse is immediately removed.

OFFENSIVE TRADES.—One a rag and bone store ; the other tripe boiling. Visited regularly, but no complaints.

LODGING-HOUSES.—There are two registered ; they have been frequently visited and found clean and well conducted, and no overcrowding ; they have not been the source of any trouble.

FACTORIES.—These are under the supervision of the Government Factory Inspector.

WORKSHOPS.—The registered ones are quite satisfactory. Cloggers 4, Tailors 3, Dressmakers 9 ; Food—Bakers and Confectioners 5 ; Building Trade—Joiners 5, Plumbers and Painters 3.

BAKEHOUSES are five in number. They have been regularly inspected, and found in very good condition ; they are large, clean and well ventilated. There are none under ground.

NEW HOUSES.—There have been 13 erected during the year.

VITAL STATISTICS.

MARRIAGES.—The following were solemnized : Parish Church 16, Wesleyan Methodist Chapel 1, Roman Catholic 3, Congregational Church 9 ; Total, 29. The Registrar's Office has been removed out of the Kirkham Urban District.

BIRTHS.—There were 96 registered in the district, giving a birth-rate of 24·3 per 1,000. There were 42 boys and 54 girls, of these 6 were registered as illegitimate.

INFANTILE MORTALITY.—There have been 13 deaths registered under one year of age, most of them being due to “Atrophy, Debility and Marasmus,” practically meaning Debility. The infantile death-rate this year being 130·5, is lower than it has been for the last four (previous) years ; this is very satisfactory, as last year it was higher than it had been for the seven years previously. With a low birth-rate and a high infantile mortality the population would soon diminish ; but this year matters are improved in that matter in this district.

ZYMOTIC DEATH-RATE.—The rate for the seven principal (and reportable) diseases for the year was 0·76 per 1,000 of the population ; this, from a statistical point of view, is fairly satisfactory, being much lower for the last three years than for the previous two years, as will be seen on reference to the tables.

Table shewing Deaths per Quarter for past 10 years.

Year	1st Quarter		2nd Quarter		3rd Quarter		4th Quarter	
1900	...	22	...	25	...	14	...	11
1901	...	11	...	15	...	18	...	16
1902	...	19	...	19	...	13	...	12
1903	...	16	...	16	...	16	...	11
1904	...	23	...	10	...	19	...	14
1905	...	16	...	17	...	22	...	20
1906	...	20	...	18	...	22	...	20
1907	..	25	...	29	...	7	...	16
1908	...	16	...	14	...	11	...	18
1909	...	21	..	19	...	9	...	15

Table shewing Birth, Death, Zymotic and Infantile Death-rate for past 10 years.

Year	Birth-rate		Death-rate		Zymotic Death-rate		Infantile Death-rate	
1900	...	29·0	...	18·0	...	1·4	...	138
1901	...	30·0	...	18·0	...	·1	...	192
1902	...	30·0	...	18·4	...	2·4	...	166
1903	...	31·0	...	17·0	...	·8	...	76
1904	...	26·1	...	17·7	...	·5	...	103
1905	...	26·7	...	20·0	...	3·7	...	180
1906	...	28·0	...	16·0	...	2·1	...	138
1907	...	27·4	...	16·0	...	0·52	...	163
1908	...	23·7	...	15·0	...	0·77	...	183·6
1909	...	24·3	...	16·2	...	0·76	...	130·5

FYLDE UNION WORKHOUSE.—The removal of the inmates to Wesham, with the exception of the children (now at the old Workhouse and called “The Children’s Home,”) has taken some of the statistics out of our hands, so, with the exception of the children mentioned, have now to deal with the district itself only. During the year six deaths occurred in the Workhouse of people belonging to Kirkham.

MOSS SIDE INFECTIOUS HOSPITAL.—In this Hospital there are 31 beds and cots set apart for Scarlet Fever cases and 12 for Typhoid and Diphtheritic cases. There are not any separate wards or beds set apart for different districts. There has been one death from Kirkham district during the year in the Hospital.

In conclusion, gentlemen, I may say that the report for the year is satisfactory. Though the birth-rate is low, other districts are similarly situated, and it is an improvement on last year. The death-rates, both adult and infantile, have considerably improved.

I am,

Yours obediently,

BENJ. E. JONES,

L.R.C.P., Edin.

“*The Apiary*”

Freckleton, nr., Kirkham,

February 26th, 1910.



KIRKHAM URBAN SANITARY AUTHORITY.

*To the Chairman and Members of the Kirkham Urban
District Council.*

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to present to you my FIRST ANNUAL REPORT on the Sanitary Condition of Kirkham. As I only entered on my duties in August, 1909, my Report only takes in the later months of the year.

The sanitary condition of the town is improving. Defective sewers are being gradually rectified by the sinking of inspection chambers at suitable intervals, by means of which the sewers can be well flushed and rodded.

I am pleased to report that whenever it has been necessary to give notice of insanitary premises, such notices have been, in all cases, promptly and willingly complied with.

On entering office, I found the ashpits generally in a disgraceful condition, many had never been thoroughly emptied for years. I have formed a scheme whereby the ashpits in each street are to be emptied in regular succession. It will, of course, take some time to effectively carry out this idea. The greatest drawback is the absence of a suitable refuse destructor.

The scavenging is satisfactory, and is carried out under my personal supervision.

The common lodging-houses, on the whole, are fairly well kept. The sanitary conveniences of one are defective, and a notice has been served to remedy the same. This is being complied with.

The slaughter-houses are well kept, and in one case a new one has been erected on the latest sanitary principles.

I am, gentlemen,

Yours respectfully,

CYRIL J. CROSS, A.R.San.I., Inspector.

**Summary of Sanitary Work done, and Report, for
the year ending December 31st, 1909.**

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT.

Number of rooms disinfected	35
Number of Notices given by Inspector	16
Notice to whitewash and cleanse	3
Drains opened out, cleansed, and defects rectified	1
Slopstone waste-pipes disconnected from drains, and made to discharge over gullies	1
Privies improved and raised	5
Privies converted into W.C.'s	5
Filthy backyards cleansed under notice	0
Nuisances from overcrowding... ..	0

NIGHTSOIL.

Closets and ashpits emptied and disinfected	552
--	-----

SCAVENGING.

Loads of street sweepings	312
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BAKEHOUSES.

Inspected regularly. Well kept.

COMMON LODGING-HOUSES.

Prosecuted for not being registered	0
Notices to limewash	0
Number registered	0
Inspected frequently. Not overcrowded.	

SLAUGHTER-HOUSES.

Kept clean and well limewashed. Offal removed immediately after slaughtering.

DAIRIES, COW-SHEDS AND MILK-SHOPS ORDER.

Inspected regularly. Satisfactory.

(1.) VITAL STATISTICS OF WHOLE DISTRICT during 1909 and previous years.

YEAR	Population estimated to middle of each year	BIRTHS		TOTAL DEATHS REGISTERED IN THE DISTRICT				Deaths of Non-Residents registered in Public Institutions in the District				Deaths of Residents registered in Public Institutions beyond the District		NETT DEATHS AT ALL AGES BELONGING TO THE DISTRICT	
		Number	Rate*	Under One Year of age		At all Ages		9	10	11	12	13	Number	Rate*	
				Number	Rate per 1,000 Births registered	Number	Rate*								
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13			
1899.....	4,125	107	23	12	112	92	22	41	32	..	60	14			
1900.....	4,176	123	29	17	138	111	26	39	34	..	77	18			
1901.....	3,693	114	30	32	182	68	16	34	28	..	66	18			
1902.....	3,693	114	30	15	131	96	25	34	29	..	67	18			
1903.....	3,693	118	31	9	76	103	27	43	37	..	66	17			
1904.....	3,711	97	26	10	103	100	26	46	34	..	66	17			
1905.....	3,736	100	26	18	180	115	30	47	40	..	75	20			
1906.....	3,764	108	28	15	138	80	31	28	22	..	61	16			
1907.....	3,788	104	27	17	163	77	20	24	20	3	60	15			
1908.....	3,870	92	23	17	183	59	15	..	..	12	71	18		
Averages for years 1899-1908	3,824	107	27	16	140	90	22	33	27	1.5	66	17			
1909.....	3,942	96	24	13	130	57	14	..	..	7	64	16		

* Rates in Columns 4, 8 and 13 calculated per 1,000 of estimated population.

Area of District in acres (exclusive of area covered by water)..... 857
 Total population at all ages..... 3,693 } At Census of 1901.
 Number of inhabited houses 784
 Average number of persons per house... 4.0

Institutions outside the District receiving sick and infirm persons from within the District—Fylde Union Workhouse, Wesham, Kirkham, Fylde Joint Hospital Committee's Hospital at Moss Side, and Preston, Fylde and Garstang Small-pox Hospital at Elswick.

(III.) CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE notified during the year 1909.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE	CASES NOTIFIED IN WHOLE DISTRICT							Total cases removed to Hospital	Deaths in Hospital of Patients removed from this District
	At all Ages	At Ages—Years							
		Under 1	1 to 5	5 to 15	15 to 25	25 to 65	65 and upwards		
Small-pox .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Cholera .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Diphtheria (including (Membranous Croup)	4	1	2	1	..	..	..	4	..
Erysipelas	3	..	2	2	..	1	..	10	..
Scarlet Fever	11	..	6	6	3	..	..	..	..
Typhus Fever .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Enteric Fever	10	..	1	1	3	5	..	7	1
Relapsing Fever .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Continued Fever .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Puerperal Fever .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Plague .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
TOTALS.....	28	..	4	11	7	5	1	21	1

Isolation Hospital, Moss Side, Lytham. Elswick for Small-pox.

(IV.) CAUSES OF, AND AGES AT, DEATH
during year 1909.

Causes of Death 1	Deaths at the subjoined ages of "Residents," whether occurring in or beyond the District							Deaths at all ages of "Residents " belong- ing to Localities, whether occurring in or beyond the District					Total Deaths whether of Residents or non "Residents" in Public Institutions in the District 14
	All Ages 2	Under 1 year 3	1 and under 5 4	5 and under 15 5	15 and under 25 6	25 and under 65 7	65 and upwards 8	Fleetwood 9	Blackpool 10	Kirkham 11	Lytham 12	13	
Small-pox .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Measles .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Scarlet Fever .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Whooping Cough .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Diphtheria and Membranous Croup .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Croup .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Fever { Typhus	3	..	..	..	1	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Enteric													
Other Continued ..													
Epidemic Influenza .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Cholera .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Plague .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Diarrhœa .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Enteritis	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Puerperal Fever .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Erysipelas .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Other Septic Diseases .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Phthisis, Pulm. Tuberculosis ..	6	..	..	1	1	4	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Other Tubercular Diseases ..	2	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Cancer, Malignant Disease ..	2	..	..	..	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..
Bronchitis	7	2	1	..	..	1	3	..	..	..	..	..	..
Pneumonia	3	..	1	1	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..
Pleurisy	1	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Other Diseases of Respira- tory Organs	2	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Alcoholism, Cirrhosis of Liver	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..
Venereal Diseases .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Premature Birth .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Diseases and Accidents of Parturition .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Heart Diseases	2	..	..	..	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..
Accidents .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Suicides .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Old Age .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Diseases of Nervous System ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Debility .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Diseases of Kidneys .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
All other causes	34	9	1	1	1	9	13	..	..	..	..	..	..
All causes	64	13	3	4	4	20	20	..	..	..	..	..	..

(V.) *INFANTILE MORTALITY*

Deaths from stated Causes in Weeks

CAUSE OF DEATH	Under 1 Week	1-2 Weeks	2-3 Weeks	3-4 Weeks	Total under 1 Month
COMMON INFECTIOUS DISEASES—					
Small-pox
Chicken-pox
Measles
Scarlet Fever
Diphtheria : Croup
Whooping Cough
DIARRHOEAL DISEASES—					
Diarrhoea, all forms
Enteritis, Muco-Enteritis, Gastro-Enteritis
Gastritis, Gastro-intestinal Catarrh
WASTING DISEASES—					
Premature Birth
Congenital Defects
Injury at Birth
Want of Breast-milk, Starvation
Atrophy, Debility, Marasmus	1	2	..	3
TUBERCULOUS DISEASES—					
Tuberculous Meningitis
Tuberculous Peritonitis : Tabes Mesenterica
Other Tuberculous Diseases
OTHER CAUSES—					
Erysipelas
Syphilis
Rickets
Meningitis (<i>not Tuberculous</i>)
Convulsions
Bronchitis
Laryngitis
Pneumonia
Suffocation, overlaying
Other Causes
	..	1	2	..	3

District of KIRKHAM URBAN. Population
Births in the year, 96.

during the year 1909.

and Months under One Year of Age.

1-2 Months	2-3 Months	3-4 Months	4-5 Months	5-6 Months	6-7 Months	7-8 Months	8-9 Months	9-10 Months	10-11 Months	11-12 Months	Total Deaths under 1 Year
..
..
..
..
..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
..
..
..
1	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	7
..
..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
..
..
..	..	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	1
..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	..	..	1
..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
..
..
1	4	1	..	..	..	2	..	1	..	1	13

(estimated to middle of 1909), 3,942.

Deaths from all Causes at all Ages, 64.

